

What is claimed is:

1. An input system for a portable terminal, comprising a portable terminal which uses a control unit for input, wherein:

5 said control unit is detachably mounted on said portable terminal.

2. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein:

10 a plurality of control units are detachably mounted on said portable terminal; and

 one or more control units can be selected from said plurality of control units and said portable terminal uses the selected control unit(s) for input.

15 3. An input system for a portable terminal, comprising a portable terminal which uses a plurality of control unit for input, wherein:

 one or more control units can be selected from said plurality of control units and said portable terminal uses
20 the selected control unit(s) for input.

4. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 3, wherein:

 said control units are detachably mounted on said portable
25 terminal.

5. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2 or 4, wherein:

said portable terminal comprises contact detection plates for detecting contact on plate surfaces and accepts
5 input from said control units based on the result of detection performed by said contact detection plates; and

each of said control units comprises movable contacts which, when said control unit is mounted on said portable terminal in such a way as to lie on one of said contact detection
10 plates, come into and out of contact with said contact detection plate by move.

6. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 5, wherein:

15 each of said control units comprises ID contacts which come into contact with unique parts of said contact detection plate when said control unit is mounted on said portable terminal in such a way as to lie on said contact detection plate; and

20 said portable terminal detects the places of contact between said contact detection plate and ID contacts and identifies said control unit based on the result of the detection.

25 7. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 6, wherein:

said portable terminal comprises storage means for storing control unit information for each of said control units, detects the places of contact between said contact detection plate and said ID contacts, searches said storage means for appropriate control unit information based on the result of the detection, and identifies said control unit based on the retrieved control unit information.

8. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 2 or 4, wherein:

said portable terminal comprises portable-terminal-side connection terminals for connecting electrically with said control units and accepts input from said control units through electrical communications with said portable-terminal-side connection terminals; and

each of said control units comprises a control-unit-side connection terminal for connecting electrically with one of said portable-terminal-side connection terminals and operation means to be operated by the user, and in response to the operation of said operation means, changes the content of electrical signals associated with electrical communications between said control-unit-side connection terminal and said portable-terminal-side connection terminal.

9. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 8, wherein:

each of said control units connects ID circuit to said control-unit-side connection terminal, said ID circuit changes the content of electrical signals associated with electrical communications between said control-unit-side connection terminal and said portable-terminal-side connection terminal into unique content; and

said portable terminal identifies said control unit based on the electrical communications between said portable-terminal-side connection terminal and said ID circuit.

10. The input system for a portable terminal according to claim 9, wherein:

said portable terminal comprises storage means for storing control unit information for each of said control units, acquires ID information based on electrical communications between said portable-terminal-side connection terminal and said ID circuit, searches said storage means for appropriate control unit information based on the acquired ID information, and identifies said control unit based on the retrieved control unit information.

11. The input system for a portable terminal according to any of claims 2 and 4 to 10, wherein:

said portable terminal requires, during application start-up, for one or more of said control units to be selected

and when one or more control units are selected, accepts input for the application from the selected control unit(s).

12. A portable terminal applicable to the input system for
5 a portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein:

said portable terminal can be fitted with said control units.

13. A portable terminal applicable to the input system for
10 a portable terminal according to claim 3, wherein:

said portable terminal uses the selected control unit for input.

14. A control unit applicable to the input system for a
15 portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein

said control unit can be mounted on said portable terminal.

15. An input program to be executed by the input system for
20 a portable terminal according to claim 3 consisting of a computer system, wherein

said program is program which is executed operation, said operation can be selected one or more control units from said plurality of control units and makes input to be accepted in
25 said portable terminal via the selected control unit.

16. An input program to be executed by the portable terminal
according to claim 13 consisting of a computer system,
wherein said program is program which is executed operation,
said operation makes input to be accepted in said portable
5 terminal via the selected control unit.

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